15. The need for introducing a new standard measure for paddy, etc., in Nanjanad making one kotta equivalent to $7\frac{1}{7}$ paras.

Mr. V. Tiruchittambalam Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) said that the people of Nanjanad were put to considerable hardship, as the rules introduced by Government at the time of the Settlement to secure uniformity in the measurements of land and grain had not been extended to Nanjanad. About 990 M. E., owing to the scarcity of coin, Government began to realise half the paddy tax in money at the rate of six chackrams per para. Kotta, marakal and padi were the grain measures then in use in Nanjanad, and one kotta was declared equivalent to 9 paras and $3\frac{5}{8}$ edangalies according to the Vengalapara then in use.

According to G. O's Nos. D. 2779 and 2724, dated the 1st July 1915, one Vengalapara was equal to 640 cubic inches. In 1061, the *para* was, for purposes of Settlement, declared to be equal to 800 cubic inches. When, in 1082, the remaining one-half of the paddy tax was ordered to be commuted into money at eleven chuckrams per para, Government, without appreciating the full importance of the question, laid down that one Nanjanad kotta was equivalent to 8 paras and $6\frac{1}{2}$ edangalies (according to the Settlement para of 800 cubic inches). In the Rules issued under the Weights and Measures Regulation, VI of 1085, the Nanjanad kotta was declared as equivalent to 9 paras $3\frac{5}{8}$ edangalies calculated at the rate of 800 cubic inches=a para. Subsequently, the tenants of Sri Pandaravagai lands paying the tax in kind protested against this rate of conversion; and recently Government had ordered that the tax be realised at the rate of 8 paras $6\frac{1}{2}$ edangalies for one kotta as in the case of Sirkar lands. That had not given complete satisfaction to the people.

For purposes of Settlement, one Settlement para of wet land had been taken as equal to 14 cents, and lands of the first *tharam* were assessed at $10\frac{1}{2}$ times the quantity of seed required. In calculation, fractions less than one-half were neglected by Government, and a deduction of one-tenth was made in the case of wet lands, on account of bunds, &c. An acre was thus taken to represent $7\frac{1}{7}$ paras of land except in Nanjanad and Shencottah and bore an assessment of 75 paras of paddy. One kotta was equivalent to one acre, and $10\frac{1}{2}$ kottas should thus be equal to 75 paras, or one kotta was equal to 7 paras roughly. A Vengalapara measured only 640 cubic inches and it had been accepted that one kotta was equal to 9 paras $3\frac{5}{8}$ edangalies. The Nanjanad kotta therefore when converted into the Settlement para of 800 cubic inches $=640 \times 749/80 \times 800 = 7\frac{42}{100}$ paras. Thus, on no account could a kotta be taken as equivalent to more than 7 paras. The representations on the subject by Mr. Sivathanu Pillai at the 14th session of the Assembly deserved consideration. Though standard weights and measures had been introduced by law, they were not being rigidly enforced. Traders were using weights and measures which did not conform to the standards prescribed. Stringent orders should be issued to enforce the standard weights and measures.

Dewan's reply.—It is not possible for me to give a definite reply without studying the previous literature on the subject.

16. The need for constituting Kayankulam into a separate taluk.

Sahib Bahadur N. Siddick Sait (Member, Municipal Council, Kayankulam) said that the historic importance of the place had not received proper recognition. The town of Kayankulam was at present within the jurisdiction of three different taluks *viz.* Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Mavelikara. The difficulties entailed thereby in the transaction of Government business and treasury remittances were patent. This also affected the litigant public as it led to the distribution of cases among the various Courts. The transfer of the Karunagapalli Magistrate's Court to Kayankulam, urged in the past, would mitigate the hardship entailed by the local Magistrate being also the President of the Municipality. He considered that a separate taluk shoud be formed consisting of Krishnapuram, Pudupalli and Perinad pakuthies from the Karunagapalli taluk; of Pathiyur, Keerikad, Arattupuzha and Kanthallur pakuthies from the Kartikapalli taluk; and of Bharanikavu, Vallikunnam, Thamaracolam and

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Peringala pakuthies from the Mavelikara Taluk. The total area of those eleven pakuthies is 75·62 square miles, and it would be more extensive than Parur taluk. Seven of those pakuthies already constituted a group forming the jurisdiction of the Krishnapuram Munsiff's Court, the Kayankulam Excise Range and the Stationary Magistrate. The new taluk would bring in an aggregate land revenue of Rs. 1,20,000; and, with the large number of public offices and institutions located in the town, there would be transactions to the extent of about Rs. 2 lakhs. There was formerly a Sub-Treasury at the place and the Sub-Magistrate was empowered to dispose of pokkuvaravu cases. For the above reasons, the Member requested that the above-said eleven pakuthies be constituted into a separate taluk and that the Stationary Magistrate's court at Karunagapalli be shifted to Kayankulam.

Dewan's reply.—The representation of the Member is noted.

17. Needs of Kanjirapalli.

Mr. Ittiavira Thomas (Member, Peermade Taluk) first urged the formation of a new taluk to be carved out of the present Peermade taluk and consisting of the six pakuthies of Punjar, Kanjirapalli North, Kanjirapalli South, Manimala, Cheruvalli and Chirakadavu. The taluk might be named after its headquarters, Kanjirapalli. The present Peermade taluk had a larger area than the Padmanabhapuram Division. The new Kanjirapalli taluk would measure 210·41 square miles and would be bigger than most taluks of the State. Peermade taluk was 50 miles in length and there were places in the taluk situated more than 30 miles from the head-quarters. The work in the Taluk Office was heavy and revenue cases from 1086 onwards were in arrears. The climatic difference between this group of six pakuthies in the plains and the remaining pakuthies on the hills was very great. The pakuthies on the high lands were inhabited by Europeans and labourers on the estates, while there was a native population on the low land pakuthies. In view of the long distances from the abovesaid pakuthies to the head-quarters and the difficulties and cost of journeys to it, people who had to go to the head-quarters of the present taluk to transact business were put to great privations and hardships. The cost of the formation of a new taluk would not exceed Rs. 5,000 a year. The Kanjirapalli Munsiff could be divested of his Magisterial work, the Mundakayam Magistrate's Court abolished, and the Tahsildar of the new taluk invested with First Class Magisterial powers. A large amount could thus be saved. The expeditious disposal of applications for the registry of land would also bring in additional revenue to Government. The difficulties experienced by the offices, &c., at Kanjirapalli could also be lightened by the location of a Taluk Office and Sub-Treasury at Kanjirapalli. The question of the formation of a new taluk had been brought forward at the past four sessions of the Assembly and Government last year admitted the reasonableness of the request.

The Member next referred to the fact that the country had annually to import large quantities of paddy and it suffered considerably during the last five years by its inability to raise its own food-stuffs. Though there had been much talk for some time past about the necessity of extending paddy cultivation, no serious effort had been made to extend the area under paddy in the State. On the other hand, the policy of Government would appear to be designed to thwart people who were venturesome enough to open up new sources of food supply. The history of the reclamation of the backwater area would amply prove the statement. In the eastern districts, the area under paddy cultivation had actually diminished during the past few years. The policy of Government in extending the area of reserved forests had been the chief contributory cause of this state of things. A vast extent of hill tract which was under periodical paddy cultivation and a large number of marshy areas lying in the midst of these hill districts and regularly used for growing paddy had been declared part of the reserved forests of the country and thus placed beyond the reach of the people. And what little land remained outside the reserved forests, or was subsequently disafforested had been taken up mainly by European planters for the cultivation of tea, rubber and other industrial crops. A rough calculation would show that nearly 20,000 acres of land formerly used for growing food crops had now been converted into tea, rubber and other estates in the Peermade taluk alone. The areas in which cherikal cultivation was

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